

*Office of the Governor  
State of North Carolina*

*Roy Cooper  
Governor*



20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-0301

August 21, 2019

The Honorable Phil Berger  
North Carolina Senate  
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2007  
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Senator Berger:

Most North Carolinians want a greater investment in teacher pay rather than another corporate tax break. They want low income working citizens to get the health care coverage that North Carolina taxpayers are already paying for. They also want their elected leaders to negotiate their differences with honest give and take.

Instead, they get a letter like the one I received last night. I have not had a Medicaid "ultimatum" and I don't have one now. This fiction is an excuse to stonewall negotiations on this and other important budget differences we have. It also buys time (44 days and counting) to try and buy off enough Democrats to override the veto and get a budget that is 100% the Republican way.

Now this letter tells me that a different tactic will be used to get a budget that is 100% the Republican way—piecemeal budget bills.

Let's stop this. We all know that there are excellent discussions going on right now among Republicans and Democrats about using federal money to cover the working poor with health insurance. We also know there is enough money to give teachers a better raise and fund all of the local projects your members so desperately want. There is a way forward that forges true compromises without any of us compromising our principles.

I would ask that the Republican leadership make a counteroffer to my reasonable compromise budget offer so that we can work for a consensus budget for the people of North Carolina.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Roy" and "Cooper" being capitalized and prominent.

Roy Cooper